

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE war in the republican party upon Mr. Roosevelt grows in fury. At the young men's republican club in Philadelphia, John M. Thurston, former senator from Nebraska, led off with an attack upon the president, while Mayor Rayburn displayed great bitterness. A Philadelphia dispatch referring to this meeting says: "When the mayor made his first references to the president his purpose was not clear, but soon it became apparent that he was launched upon a sweeping attack. The diners sat amazed. With the organization still staggering from the blow of President Roosevelt's disclosure that Senator Penrose was plotting with the corporations to defeat his policies, another organization officeholder spoke in defiance. The regulars who heard him realized that this would simply increase the widespread belief in the existence of a definite campaign to crush Rooseveltism and all the public-spirited policies that it stands for—a campaign led by the corporations and regular leaders of the republican party."

FORMER GOVERNOR ODELL of New York, also bitterly arraigned Mr. Roosevelt. In a public speech Attorney General McCarter, speaking before the lawyer's club at Trenton, New Jersey, said: "The president of the United States summons into his presence prospective appointees of the federal judiciary and makes their appointment contingent on their opinions with regard to certain laws that may come before them for consideration. He influences the courts in their decisions, and went so far as to send the attorney general of the United States to Chicago to inform the judge trying a certain case that the president wanted it decided thus and so. Justices of the supreme court in two instances since I have been the attorney general of this state have come to me and asked me to represent the people in certain criminal cases to be tried because they could not trust the prosecutor of the pleas in the counties where the cases were to be tried."

IS MR. ROOSEVELT a candidate for a third term? This is a very popular question these days and men are divided upon it. Under date of April 9 the Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, republican, says: "There is little doubt but the president, while sincere at the time he made his announcement, would, at this time accept the republican nomination and an election at the hands of the people if he thought the people would stand for it and would rally about him in the campaign. Many who have talked with him recently believe that he is now engaged in pointing out the objections to a third term and his possible defeat at the polls, with the hope and idea of having his objections overcome by a great wave of sentiment in his favor."

A PROTEST made by Haywood and his friends is just now giving Mr. Roosevelt great concern. It will be remembered that in his letter to Mr. Sherman recently made public, Mr. Roosevelt referred to Haywood as an "undesirable citizen." The Central Federated Union has taken up the Haywood protest and reinforced it with its own. Referring to the Union's protest, the New York Evening Post says: "There is much force in it. Here is a man on trial for his life, the facts about whose guilt remain to be proved, and the president of the United States openly stigmatizes him. It was a grave impropriety, and good lawyers agree that Haywood has a just grievance against Mr. Roosevelt. The Central Union is so stirred by it that it calls upon Mr. Roosevelt to 'retract.' Labor newspapers are angrily taking up the quarrel, just as they are ringing the changes on the revelation that the president was urging Harriman to come freely to the White House and advise him about his message, and was gladly taking his money with that of his plutocratic railway associates. There is the possibility of serious political trouble in this; and if Mr. Roosevelt should not be able to compose it; above all, if hard times should supervene and the presidential outlook appear squally, we should look to see the election-night self-denying ordinance of the president heroically lived up to."

THE NEW YORK WORLD reminds Mr. Roosevelt that his enemies in the republican party know the secrets of the republican national com-

mittee. The World says: "Does Mr. Roosevelt believe for a minute that they will hesitate to use this information at the psychological moment to discredit him and destroy his popularity? Does he not understand that it would be infinitely better for him to touch off the mine himself than to allow his enemies to do it when his back is turned? There must be plenty of correspondence similar to the Harriman-Webster letter in existence and plenty of men ready to see that it gets into print. If Mr. Roosevelt is wise he will at once throw open the books, make all the facts public and disarm his enemies at a single stroke."

THE Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "The administration has taken cognizance of the charges made against the commissary department on the Isthmus of Panama by Representative Rainey of Illinois, and in view of some seeming corroborative evidence offered here, a rigid investigation is to be made. If the new chairman of the canal commission, Maj. Goethals, does not make a satisfactory and exhaustive report relative to the latest attempt to create a canal scandal, the president has it in mind to send a personal representative to the isthmus to look into the matter. Joseph Bucklin Bishop will possibly be chosen for the task if such action is deemed necessary."

SENATOR LAFOLLETTE of Wisconsin, in a newspaper interview given at Helena, Mont., declared for the renomination of Mr. Roosevelt. Senator LaFollette said the railroads were taking the wrong course if they wanted to defeat the president's policies by securing the nomination of someone holding different views. "They will force President Roosevelt to be a candidate, if I am correctly informed as to the actions of Harriman and his associates," said the senator. "Abusing the president will not help the railroads with the people, as, after all, public sentiment rules this nation, and antagonizing him and questioning his motives will result in Theodore Roosevelt renouncing his declaration not to run again and making the race by way of vindication. It could hardly be called a third term, since during the first three years of his administration he was in a sense carrying out the policies of his lamented predecessor, and it was only during his present term that he promulgated and carried out his own plans. President Roosevelt is entitled to another term, and the people are entitled to Roosevelt. The needed reforms he has inaugurated must be carried out and he is the one man to do it. We must have Roosevelt again." Senator LaFollette delivered his lecture on "Popular Government" at Helena.

A SECOND SOLOMON has been discovered in the police court at Bayonne, New Jersey. The New York World tells the story in this way: "A horse has decided a case in the police court of Bayonne, N. J., that baffled the efforts of two lawyers and Acting Recorder Hugh K. Mara. Simon Cohn, of No. 521 Avenue C, reported to the police some time ago that his horse had been stolen. Later the horse said to be Cohn's was found in the possession of Jacob Alpine, of Passaic. Alpine declared that the horse belonged to him and refused to surrender it. Cohn had witnesses to prove the horse was his, and lawyers wrangled over the ownership of the horse for more than an hour and a half. Finally Cohn said that the horse knew the way home from any part of Bayonne. The animal was liberated from a stall at police headquarters and went straight to the stable of Cohn. The court then decided that the horse belonged to Cohn."

SENATOR FORAKER delivered a speech at Canton, O. This was taken to be the opening gun of the Foraker-Taft battle. Mr. Foraker quoted a published report that "President Roosevelt has drawn a dead line for Senator Foraker" and that "if he attacks President Roosevelt, President Roosevelt will be heard from in no uncertain tones." Senator Foraker said: "The wicked flee when no man pursueth. I have not forecasted the character of any speeches I am intending to make and if I had it would seem incredible to the average mind that such a story could be anything more than a mischief-making pipe dream of an overambitious correspondent. That the president

of the United States should become personally engaged in a political contest to determine his successor is without precedent, unless it be the bad precedent set by Andrew Jackson as to Martin Van Buren. That he would enter upon such a struggle with a declaration that he is to set limitations upon the freedom of speech of those who may differ from him, and that they are to disregard those limitations at their peril, is without precedent even in the case of Jackson, and is so inconsistent with the dignity of his high office and the properties always to be observed that I feel it a duty toward the president himself to enter for him, on my own motion, a disclaimer of all responsibility for such a publication. The time has not yet come, and nobody knows that better than the president himself, when 'dead lines' can be drawn in debate for anybody to observe, nor has the time come when any real man would respect them if they were drawn. So far as I am personally concerned, I shall always speak with malice toward none but according to my convictions whenever and wherever I may have occasion to speak at all."

WILLIAM T. STEAD, the English editor, addressed the New York conference of the Methodist church recently, pleading for the assistance of Methodists in the movement for international peace which is to be considered at The Hague conference. This report is taken from the Associated Press: "Are you American churchmen willing to take action to secure the enactment of this law as an international statute?" he asked, "and say there shall be a moment's pause before the dogs of war are unleashed?" "Amen, amen," came in a chorus from all over the church. "Amen! Oh, nobody cares for amen, unless it leads you to do something to put into effect your prayer," the speaker responded. He declared that in his visits to various parts of the world he has found no one who thought the Christian church was a force in the world today. He said: "You speak to the great men of Europe and ask their opinion of its power and they shrug their shoulders and tell you that the Christian church has been allowed to go to the devil. Is the church of Jesus Christ going to do anything to help in the secular work of the nation? You Methodists are, at least, the second church in this American country. If you should decide to put your forces to work to the task that is before us, we might have great results from this meeting. We held a meeting at Leeds before I came here, to consider this, and the Free church announced that it was ready to act under the direction of the archbishop of Canterbury in the matter, and when I left they were considering whether it would not be better for the Church of England and the Roman Catholic church to unite in joint action. I don't know whether you can do this here, but are you willing to act together?" As the speaker sat down there were loud cries of "Yes, yes, yes," from all over the auditorium. A committee of three to draft suitable resolutions was appointed by Bishop Berry."

MR. STEAD proposes that a group of prominent Americans shall start May 1, for London, there to be joined by a similar group of Englishmen. The entire party is then to visit the different capitals, adding at each one new delegation. Then the big peace army will on June 1, arrive at The Hague to attend the first peace parliament of the world. In a statement given to the New York World, Mr. Stead outlined the objects of the "Peace Pilgrims" as follows: These four points are the immediate objective of any demonstration which may be set on foot in support of The Hague conference, and they might be taken as the petition of the pilgrims:

1. An arrest of the increase of armaments.
2. Governments to undertake the work of peace societies and appropriate one dollar for every thousand dollars spent for war to peace propaganda and international hospitality.
3. Refusal to call in seconds or special mediators before making war to be punished by refusing war loans and making imports contraband of war.
4. Arbitration to be made obligatory on all questions of secondary importance which do not affect honor or vital interests.